

# GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

## National Futurity and Maturity Stake Rules

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the GSMD Futurity and Maturity is to encourage the breeding of the best possible Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs and to reward breeders for their efforts. In nominating a litter for the Futurity and Maturity, GSMDCA member breeders are casting their vote of confidence in their breeding decisions and indicating their commitment to improving the quality of the GSMD. The Maturity Stakes not only provide Futurity-nominated puppies with an additional opportunity to compete, but also gives those unable to participate in a Futurity the chance to compete in Maturity during the next National Specialty. The Futurity and Maturity Stakes prizes are weighted towards the breeder. Recognition is also given to the owners in whose hands lies the responsibility of developing the inherited potential of the individual puppy. In addition, the sire is recognized for his genetic contribution.

### II. GENERAL

- A. Correct and timely nominations of both the litter and the individual puppy are required for stakes eligibility.
- B. Prize moneys can only be won through competition at the GSMDCA National Futurity or Maturity Stakes.
- C. National Futurity or Maturity Stakes can only be held in conjunction with the GSMDCA National Specialty.
- D. Nominations may be made online at [www.gsmdca.org](http://www.gsmdca.org) or by downloading the form (see Attachment A) on the website and mailing it along with payment to the Futurity/Maturity Chair.
- E. Futurity and Maturity judging will not be held on the same day as Sweepstake judging.

### III. NOMINATION OF LITTER

- A. Nomination of the litter must be made by the breeder or co-breeder, who must be a member in good standing of the GSMDCA at the time of nomination, and at least a twelve month period immediately preceding the date of the nomination. The nominator, if living, must also be a GSMDCA member at the time of the Stake judging; if not the litter will be considered ineligible.
- B. Nominations should be made online through the GSMDCA website, (or, if needed by printing the nomination form and mailing it directly to the Futurity/Maturity Chair). Nomination of a litter is made by accurately completing the online registration form and making payment through the payment link. (Alternatively, the registration form may be printed, completed and mailed with payment of the fee by check made payable to the GSMDCA Futurity/Maturity Stakes.)
- C. Nomination must be made after breeding, but before puppies are whelped. The postmark on the entry envelope or date online registration is received is the official date of nomination.
- D. The fee to nominate the litter is \$25.00. Of the nomination fee \$15.00 will go to Futurity nomination and \$10.00 will go to the Maturity nomination. There will be no refunds. Increases in the litter nomination fee can be made by a majority vote of the GSMDCA Board of Directors.
- E. Nomination fees cannot be transferred from one litter to another.

- F. The nomination of a litter makes all puppies in the litter eligible for individual nomination in both Futurity and Maturity.

#### **IV. NOMINATION OF PUPPY**

- A. Nomination of an eligible puppy must be made by the legal owner or co-owner of the puppy as of the date of the puppy's nomination. The puppy owner or co-owner need not be a member of the GSMDCA. The nomination shall include the identifying information for the puppy including registered name and individual AKC number.
- B. Nomination must be made before the puppy reaches four (4) months of age. The date of online nomination and payment (or, the postmark on the envelope with printed nomination and fee) is the official date of nomination.
- C. The fee is \$15.00 for each puppy nominated. Of the puppy nomination fee \$10.00 will go to Futurity nomination and \$5.00 will go to the Maturity nomination. There will be no refunds. Increases in the individual puppy nomination fee can be made by the majority vote of the GSMDCA Board of Directors.
- D. An entire or selected puppies from a litter may be individually nominated by the breeder for Futurity and Maturity before puppies are sold by paying the fee for each puppy and supplying whelping date, name, sex, and color for each puppy. If neither litter registration number or individual registration number is available at the time of puppy nomination, this must be supplied as soon as available and in no case later than four (4) weeks before the Futurity stakes judging. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in disqualification of the puppy concerned.
- E. Any changes in the identifying information which will be included in the Catalog must be received by the Futurity/Maturity Chair four (4) weeks prior to judging. Failure to provide such information will result in disqualification of the puppy concerned.

#### **V. FUTURITY STAKES**

##### ***REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER FUTURITY JUDGING***

- A. Puppies are eligible only for the first Futurity Stake that is held in conjunction with the first GSMDCA National Specialty Show held on or after the date the puppy reaches six (6) months of age. Champions of record are eligible to compete.
- B. Futurity entrants must also be entered in one of the regular classes at the GSMDCA National Specialty show. All entry fees must be paid in full.
- C. Futurity entry must be indicated as an additional class on the official AKC entry form. Futurity entry must include age division (see below)
- D. The entry fee for Futurity Stake is \$15.00. Increase in the entry fee can be made by a majority vote of the GSMDCA Board of Directors. The entry fees shall be allocated as follows: 50% of the total entry fees received shall be paid to the GSMDCA by the relevant year's National Specialty show committee and will go to the Total Futurity Stake Fund for division at the next year's Futurity Stake as outlined in Section V. The remaining 50% will be retained by the relevant year's National Specialty show committee to help cover expenses of the Futurity Stake (including any fees or expenses of the judges or charged by the show secretary and superintendent) for which the entries were made.
- E. Eligible puppies must be handled in the Futurity Stake by the breeder, owner, co-owner, or an amateur handler. Professional handlers will not be allowed to exhibit any dog they do not own or co-own.

### ***CLASS DIVISIONS***

- A. Futurity Stake is divided into four age divisions:
  - 6 months but under 9 months (Puppy)
  - 9 months but under 12 months (Puppy)
  - 12 months but under 15 months (Junior)
  - 15 months or over (Junior)
- B. Each age group shall be further divided by sex. Thus, there are two (2) classes in each age division for a total of eight (8) classes.

### ***SEQUENCE OF JUDGING***

- A. The judging sequence for Futurity Stake shall be Puppy dog and bitch classes (6-9 months; 9-12 months); Best Futurity Puppy and Best Opposite Sex to Best Futurity Puppy; Junior dog and bitch classes (12-15, 15+ months); Best Futurity Junior; Best Opposite Sex to Best Futurity Junior.
  - Four placements shall be awarded in each of the 8 classes.
  - Best Futurity Puppy, Best of Opposite Sex to Best Futurity Puppy will be selected from the first place winners from each of the divided puppy classes. Best Futurity Junior and Best of Opposite Sex to Best Futurity Junior will be selected from the first place winners from each of the divided junior classes.
- B. The Best Futurity Puppy and the Best Junior compete for Best in Futurity Winner.

### ***DIVISION OF FUTURITY STAKE MONEYS (Futurity portion of litter nomination fees and individual puppy nomination fees)***

- *TOTAL FUTURITY STAKE MONEY* shall be divided as follows:
  - 25% to Futurity Operating Expense Fund.
  - 75% to be divided equally between the Puppy and Junior stakes as follows:
    - 80% to placements in the eight classes, divided equally among the 8 classes regardless of entry. Within each class,
      - 40% will go to first place,
      - 30% to second,
      - 20% to third place,
      - And, 10% to fourth place.
    - 20% will be awarded to the winners as follows:
      - 5% will be awarded to the Best Puppy in Futurity
      - 3% will be awarded to the Best Opposite Sex to Best Puppy in Futurity;
      - 5% will be awarded to Best Junior in Futurity.
      - 3% will be awarded to the Best Opposite Sex to Best Junior in Futurity
      - 4% will be awarded to Grand Prize Futurity Winner.
  - Each prize will subsequently be divided as follows:
    - 50% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Breeder.
    - 35% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Owner.
    - 15% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Sire Owner
- Any monies which cannot be awarded at the time of judging due to lack of an entry, absence or ineligibility will transfer to the subsequent year's Maturity Stake Fund and be divided as described in Section VI.

### ***TROPHIES AND RIBBONS***

- Ribbons will be awarded for each placement in the classes, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. A rosette will be awarded to the Best in Futurity Puppy, Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Puppy, Best in Futurity

Junior, Best of Opposite Sex to Futurity Junior, and Grand Futurity winner as well each of the four placements in the classes. Expenses for all ribbons and rosettes will be paid from the Futurity Operating Expense Fund, up to the budgeted amount. Any expenses in excess of the budgeted amount will be the responsibility of the National Specialty Show committee.

- Any Futurity Stake trophies will be awarded at the expense of the National Specialty Show Committee.
- Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least 2” wide and approximately 8” long; and bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the American Kennel Club, the name of the prize, and the GSMDCA logo with the date of the show, and the name of the city and state where the show is held.
- The following colors shall be used for the class place ribbons:
  - First place – ROSE
  - Second place – BROWN
  - Third place – LIGHT GREEN
  - Fourth place – GRAY
- Best Puppy and Best Junior – PINK
- Best Opposite Sex to Best Puppy and Best Opposite Sex to Best Junior – LAVENDAR
- Grand Futurity Winner – PINK and GREEN
- ALL TROPHIES, ROSETTES AND RIBBONS ARE RETAINED BY THE OWNER OF THE ENTRANT.

## **VI. MATURITY STAKES**

### ***REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER MATURITY JUDGING***

- A. The Maturity Stakes will be held in conjunction with the GSMDCA National Specialty. A puppy nominated for a Futurity is automatically nominated for the next year’s Maturity Stakes.
- B. Entry or participation in the Futurity Stakes is not required for Maturity judging. Thus if a puppy is not able to attend their futurity year, they may still be entered in Maturity the following year.
- C. Puppy must be entered in one of the regular classes at the GSMDCA National Specialty Show. All entries must be paid in full.
- D. Maturity Stakes must be indicated as an additional class on the official AKC entry form. Additional class entry must include age division. Puppies are eligible to compete only in the first Maturity Stake held following the Futurity stake for which they were nominated. The Futurity Chair will maintain the records of eligible Futurity/Maturity puppies. Champions of record are eligible to compete.
- E. The entry fee for Maturity Stake is \$15.00. Increase in the entry fee can be made by a majority vote of the GSMDCA Board of Directors. The entry fees shall be allocated as follows: 50% of the total entry fees received shall go to the Total Maturity Stake Fund for division at the next year’s Maturity Stake as outlined in Section VI. The remaining 50% will go to the relevant year’s National Specialty show committee to help cover expenses (including any fees or expenses of the judges or charged by the show secretary and superintendent) of the Maturity Stake for which the entries were made.
- F. Eligible puppies must be handled in the Maturity Stake by the breeder, owner, co-owner, or an amateur handler. Professional handlers (as defined by the AKC) will not be allowed to exhibit any dog they do not own or co-own.

### ***CLASS DIVISIONS***

Maturity Stakes are divided into two age divisions:

- under 24 months (Junior), and,
- over 24 months (Senior).
- Each age division is further divided by sex. Thus, there are four (4) classes in the Maturity Stake.

### ***SEQUENCE OF JUDGING***

- A. The dog classes will be judged first, followed by the bitch classes. The judge will make four placements for each class.
- B. The judge will select Best Maturity Junior first, followed by Best of Opposite Maturity Junior, from the winners of the under 24 month classes.
- C. The judge will select Best Maturity Senior first, followed by Best of Opposite Maturity Senior, from the winners of the over 24 month classes.
- D. Best Maturity Junior and Best Maturity Senior will compete for Best in Maturity Winner

### ***DIVISION OF MATURITY PRIZE MONEYS (Maturity portion of litter nomination fees and individual puppy nomination fees)***

- *TOTAL MATURITY STAKE MONEY* shall be divided as follows:
  - 25% to the Maturity Operating Expense Fund.
  - 75% to be divided equally between the Junior and Senior stakes, as follows:
    - 80% to placements in the four classes, divided equally among the 4 classes regardless of entry. Within each class,
      - 40% will go to first place,
      - 30% to second,
      - 20% to third place,
      - And, 10% to fourth place.
    - 20% will be awarded to the winners as follows:
      - 5% will be awarded to the Best Junior in Maturity
      - 3% will be awarded to the Best Opposite Sex to Best Junior in Maturity;
      - 5% will be awarded to Best Senior in Maturity.
      - 3% will be awarded to the Best Opposite Sex to Best Senior in Maturity
      - 4% will be awarded to Grand Prize Maturity Winner.
  - Each prize will subsequently be divided as follows:
    - 50% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Breeder.
    - 35% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Owner.
    - 15% of all prize money awarded to an entrant shall go to the Sire Owner
- Any monies which cannot be awarded at the time of judging for any reason including lack of an entry, absence or ineligibility will revert back to the Total Maturity Stake Money; and divided as described in Section VI; .

### ***TROPHIES AND RIBBONS***

- Ribbons will be awarded for each placement in the classes, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. A rosette will be awarded to Best In Maturity Junior, Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Junior, Best in Maturity Senior, Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Senior. Best in Futurity Winner and Best of Opposite Sex to Maturity Winner. Ribbons and rosettes will be paid from the Maturity Operating Expense Funds, not to exceed the budget as described in Section VIII below.
- Any Maturity Stake trophies will be awarded at the expense of the National Specialty Show Committee.

- Each ribbon or rosette shall be at least 2” wide and approximately 8” long; and bear on its face a facsimile of the seal of the American Kennel Club, the name of the prize, and the GSMDCA logo with the date of the show, and the name of the city and state where the show is held.
- The following colors shall be used for the class place ribbons:
  - First place – ROSE
  - Second place – BROWN
  - Third place – LIGHT GREEN
  - Fourth place – GRAY
  - Best Junior and Best Senior – PINK
  - Best Opposite Sex to Best Junior and Best Opposite Sex to Best Senior – LAVENDAR
  - Grand Maturity Winner – PINK and GREEN
- All trophies, rosettes and ribbons are retained by the owner of the entrant.

## **VII. RECORDS**

- A. The Futurity/Maturity Chair will maintain the records of Futurity/Maturity eligible litters and puppies. This information shall include but may not be limited to the following:
  - a. Eligible Futurity and Maturity year
  - b. Date of litter nomination
  - c. Date of individual nomination
  - d. AKC registered name or name applied for
  - e. Litter registration number
  - f. AKC registration number
  - g. Whelping date
  - h. Sire of Litter
  - i. Owner(s) of Sire at time of litter nomination
  - j. Dam of litter
  - k. Breeder(s) of litter
  - l. Name of owner(s) under whom Puppy will be entered in Catalog
  - m. Address of Owner(s) of Puppy
  - n. Address of Breeder(s) of Puppy
  - o. Membership status of Litter Breeder(s)
- B. Any individual who has made entries in the Futurity and Maturity Stake shall receive copies of all pertinent correspondence regarding acceptance of nominations, name changes, etc. available at the time of judging
- C. The Futurity/Maturity Chair shall receive copies of all Futurity and Maturity Stake entrants’ entries. Any discrepancies shall be reported immediately to the National Specialty Show Chairperson.



### **VIII. Futurity and Maturity Stakes Operating Expense Fund**

- A. The GSMDCA Treasurer shall control the Futurity and Maturity Stake Operating Expense Funds. These funds will be maintained in a separate account managed by the Treasurer. Reports will be provided to the Board and Futurity-Maturity Chair as requested.
- B. Moneys in the Funds shall be used by the Club to cover the cost of the ribbons and rosettes, as well as the committee's administration of the Futurity and Maturity Stakes. The budget for the ribbons and rosettes will be provided by the Futurity-Maturity Chair to the National Specialty Show chair at least 4 months prior to the GSMDCA National Specialty for which they will be applied. Any expenses in excess of this budget will be the responsibility of the National Specialty Show committee.
- C. Stakes money shall be accounted for separately from the Operating Expense Funds and allocated as outlined in Sections V and VI above.
- D. All fees for nominations of litters and puppies shall be collected by the Futurity/Maturity Chair at the time of the Litter or individual Puppy nomination, either by check or electronically through the GSMDCA website. Following acceptance of the submitted nomination forms, the Futurity/Maturity Chair shall forward to the GSMDCA Treasurer all checks for deposit into the Futurity and Maturity Stake funds.
- E. Any money left in the fund after budgeted expenses are covered will roll forward to the Operating Expense Funds for the following year's Futurity and Maturity Stakes.

### **IX. Selection of Judges**

- A. A single judge will be selected to judge both the Futurity and Maturity at the National Specialty event each year.
- B. Judges will be selected by the GSMDCA membership using the same method and at the same time as the National Specialty judges are selected. Judges must be in good standing with the GSMDCA and/or AKC. Judges may be selected from breeders with a minimum of 10 years involvement in the breed, AKC approved judges (regular or provisional status), judges actively pursuing approval for the GSMD or handlers with a minimum of 10 years of experience with the GSMD.
- C. Judges' expenses will be paid by the GSMDCA from the Futurity and Maturity Operating Expense Funds up to the amount budgeted by the Futurity/Maturity Chair as approved by the GSMDCA Board of Directors.

### **X. SUMMARY OF MAJOR RULES**

- A. Litter must be nominated by the GSMDCA member breeder before litter is whelped.
- B. Puppies must be individually nominated by their owner before puppy reaches four (4) months of age.
- C. Futurity is an additional class at the National Specialty, and the entry must so indicate.
- D. Maturity is an additional class at the National Specialty and the entry must so indicate.
- E. Puppies are eligible to compete only in the first Maturity Stake held following the Futurity stake for which they were nominated. The first event will be held at the 2017 National Specialty. Eligibility to enter will follow the rules as outlined above.
- F. All information on entry form must be consistent with what was supplied to the Futurity Chair. Contrary information will result in disqualification.
- G. There are no refunds of nominating fees for any reason after a nomination of a litter or individual puppy has been accepted by the Futurity Chair.

## ATTACHMENT A

### Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Futurity-Maturity Litter Nomination Form (please print clearly)

Futurity Year \_\_\_\_\_ Maturity Year: \_\_\_\_\_ (year following Futurity year)

Date Litter Whelped: \_\_\_\_\_

Litter Dam AKC Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Litter Dam AKC Registered Name \_\_\_\_\_

Litter Sire AKC Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Litter Sire AKC Registered Name \_\_\_\_\_

Litter Sire Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Breeder \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am the breeder or co-breeder of record with the AKC of this nominated litter, and that I have been a member in good standing of the GSMDCA for a twelve month period immediately preceding this nomination. (Verification can be provided by AKC papers or Lease Agreement)

Signature of Breeder or Co-Breeder \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Litter must be nominated prior to date of whelp. Date of online submission or postmark will be the official "date of nomination")*

Litter Nomination Fee - \$25.00

Make checks payable to the GSMDCA

Mail form with fee to Futurity-Maturity Chairperson

Liz Coit

7760 Beck Lane

Zionsville, IN 46077

***Keep a copy of this form for your records (canceled check will be your receipt)***



**Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America  
Futurity-Maturity Puppy Nomination Form  
(Please print clearly)**

Futurity Year \_\_\_\_\_ Maturity Year \_\_\_\_\_

Puppy Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (*puppies must be nominated before 4 months of age*)

Puppy AKC Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Puppy AKC Registered Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sire AKC Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Sire AKC Registered Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dam AKC Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dam AKC Registered Name \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Puppy Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Puppy must be nominated prior to 4 months of age. Date of online submission or postmark will be the official "date of nomination")*

Puppy Nomination fee - \$15.00 (Make checks payable to the GSMDCA)

Mail form with fee to Futurity-Maturity Chairman

Liz Coit

7760 Beck Lane

Zionsville, IN 46077

***Keep a copy of this form for your records (canceled check will be your receipt)***